

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: ARTICLE VII OF JDT; SPACE LAUNCHERS (SALT TWO-763)

REF: SALT TWO-752

1. THE SOVIETS ON AUG 28, IN THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP, TABLED A NEW ARTICLE VII, THEIR UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE 1. THE LIMITATION PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE III OF THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT APPLY TO LAND-BASED ICBM AND SLBM TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS AND SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHERS FOR EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE.

QUOTE 2. THE PARTIES AGREE THAT (A) THERE SHALL BE NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LAND-BASED ICBM AND SLBM TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS; (B) CONSTRUCTION OR CONVERSION OF LAND-BASED ICBM LAUNCHERS AT TEST RANGES SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY FOR PURPOSE OF TESTING AND TRAINING; (C) THERE SHALL BE NO CONVERSION OF SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHERS INTO LAND-BASED ICBM LAUNCHERS. END QUOTE.

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2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS INITIATIVE, WHICH APPEARS TO BE A RESPONSE TO EARLIER U.S. CRITICISMS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSALS ON SPACE LAUNCHERS, WAS TO REVISE THE SOVIET APPROACH TO SPACE LAUNCHERS, ELIMINATING REFERENCES TO "SPACE PORTS" AND "TEST RANGES" IN CONNECTION WITH SPACE LAUNCHERS AND CHANGING THEIR CONSTRAINT ON SPACE LAUNCHERS TO SIMPLY PROVIDE THAT SUCH LAUNCHERS CANNOT BE CONVERTED TO ICBM LAUNCHERS (EITHER TEST OF TRAINING OR OPERATIONAL LAUNCHERS ACCORDING TO AN INFORMAL EXPLANATION BY KARPOV.)

3. I WOULD PROPOSE TO INDICATE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME THROUGH THE DRAFTING WORKING GROUP ON AN AD REFERENDUM TO CHIEFS OF DELEGATION BASIS, ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON SPACE LAUNCHERS, (BRACKETING THE WORDS "LAND-BASED" WHEREVER THEY APPEAR IN ARTICLE VII) PROVIDED THEY ACCEPT OUR PROPOSALS IN ARTICLE VII, ON NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HEAVY ICBM TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS AND BROADEN THEIR NEW SUBPARAGRAPH (C) TO PROHIBIT THE CONVERSION OF ICBM TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS, INCLUDING THE 19 THE SOVIETS HAVE AT OPERATIONAL COMPLEXES, TO OPERATIONAL ICBM LAUNCHERS. THE U.S. PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO THE NEW SOVIET SUBPARAGRAPH WOULD THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

4. "(C) THERE SHALL BE NO CONVERSION OF SPACE VEHICLE LAUNCHERS INTO ICBM LAUNCHERS OR OF ICBM TEST OR TRAINING LAUNCHERS INTO OPERATIONAL ICBM LAUNCHERS." JOHNSON

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NNN

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